



INTRODUCING

VILLO, THE WORLD'S VILEST VILLAIN!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



JULY

NO. 50

12¢

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

WHICHEVER
CELL HE OPENS--
WILL MEAN THE
DEATH OF
THEM ALL!

I'LL FREE
ACE FIRST,
THEN YOU TWO--
ACE! WHA-?
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING TO
HIM!

RED

ACE

PROF

THERE NEVER WAS A THREAT LIKE ONE OF THEIR OWN...
"FINAL HOUR for the CHALLENGERS!"

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE THE CHALLENGERS NEARLY DIED? HOW MANY CUT-THROATS AND KILLERS HAVE PLOTTED THE FINAL END OF THESE FAMED FEAR-FIGHTERS--AND FAILED? BUT NOW COMES THE MASTER OF DIABOLICAL SCHEMES-- THE KING OF GUNNING! NOT IN A HUNDRED YEARS COULD YOU GUESS HIS SPECTACULAR DEATH-PLAN-- SO DON'T SWITCH DIALS, FRIEND! STAY TUNED TO...

FINAL HOUR FOR THE CHALLENGERS

AND
INTRODUCING
THE WORLD'S
VILEST VILLAIN...
VILLO!



COME ON, ACE!
YOU'RE ALL
SHOOK UP!
DON'T YOU
RECOGNIZE
ME, YOUR
BUDDY-BUDDY,
ROCKY?

NOW LOOK, OL' CAT! THIS
AIN'T FUN ANY MORE! IT'S
MURDER! I MEAN, LIKE
COOL IT, PAL...

NO USE,
PROF! HE
DOESN'T
GET THE
MESSAGE!

BUT WE GET IT,
RED! VILLO
CHANGED ACE INTO
SOME SORT OF UBOUS
GIANT--AND HE'S OUT
TO KILL US! IT LOOKS
LIKE HE JUST MIGHT
DO IT!

ART BY--BOB BROWN
STORY BY--F. E. HERRON

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FOR ONLY A QUARTER,
YOU'VE GOT YOUR-
SELF A TICKET TO
EXCITO-LAND...

TO THIS PLACE COME FUN-SEEKERS AND THRILL-LOVERS...
AND LATER WILL COME THE CHALLENGERS--LURED INTO
AN UNFORGETTABLE DEATH TRAP!

COME ONE-COME ALL
to EXCITO-LAND *Fun for all*

NOW-OBSERVE
THE BIG
MIRROR NEXT
TO THE "SPACE-
TRAVELING"
CLOWN...

IT'S A TWO-WAY MIRROR! YOU
CAN'T SEE THROUGH IT-- BUT THOSE
BEHIND IT CAN SEE YOU!

LET'S FACE IT! WE CAN'T LICK THE
CHALLENGERS! THEY'VE SENT OUR
BOYS UP THE RIVER, HAD 'EM SENTENCED
TO DEATH! THEY'VE DRIVEN US
INTO RAT HOLES... BACKED US
UP AGAINST THE WALL!

IN THIS SECRET ROOM, DESPERATE
MEN MEET IN A GRIM MISSION...

YEAH-- WE'RE FINISHED!
WE CAN'T KNOCK OFF THE
CHALLS! SO I CALLED
YOU TOGETHER TO TELL
YOU WE'VE HIRED A GUY
TO DO THE JOB! HE'S
THE ROUGHEST, TOUGHEST
MUG OF 'EM ALL... THE
"TOP GUN" OF
GANGLAND...

ANY PLACE HE SHOWS UP
THE COPS GET NERVOUS!
HE'S RUN "INTERPOL"
RAGGED! HE BOASTS HE'S
THE MOST VICIOUS
CHARACTER IN THE WORLD!

HUH-H? HIM?
TH-THAT'S HIM--?

YEAH, THIS IS VILLO!
THE WORLD'S WORST,
VILEST VILLAIN!

AND BELIEVE ME,
GENTLEMEN--
NOBODY COULD
POSSIBLY BE AS
BAD AS I AM.

BR-R-R! I'VE HEARD OF
VILLO! I'M GLAD HE'S
ON OUR SIDE.

THAT NIGHT, AFTER EXCITO-LAND
CLOSES...

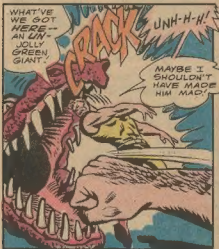
WE'LL FIND OUT SOON
ENOUGH IF THAT
ANONYMOUS TIP WAS
RIGHT-- THAT THIS
PLACE IS A
FRONT FOR
MOBSTERS.

WHAT A KOOKIE
PLACE--
SOMEBODY
MUST BE
PUTTIN'
US ON!

HEY-- I DIG THIS SCENE! ALL THE
STORYLAND CHARACTERS I READ
ABOUT WHEN I WAS A KID...
HUMPTY DUMPTY THE JACK-'N'-
BEANSTALK GIANT, AND--

COULD YOU
READ,
ROCK-HEAD,
OR DID
YOU JUST
LOOK AT
THE
PICTURES?

LAY OFF RED!
LET'S KEEP OUR
MINDS ON
WHAT WE
CAME HERE
FOR!



STILL CAZED BY THE SAVAGE BLOW, THE RED-HEADED CHALLENGER FINDS HIMSELF PLUMMETING DOWN A CHUTE...

TALK ABOUT KOOKIE SET-UPS! THIS IS THE WILDEST YET! WHERE AM I GOING?

**BUMPETY
BUMP
BUMP**

PERFECT THREE-POINT LANDING-- OWCH!

WELCOME! THE FIRST OF THE CHALLENGERS... AND I MUST SAY HE KEEPS HIS APPOINTMENTS! HE'S RIGHT ON TIME!

BEFORE HE CAN RECOVER, RED IS BUNDLED OFF TO A CELL RESERVED FOR HIM...

ALL RIGHT, YOU--YOU IN THE SCARECROW SUIT... AND MARBLES IN YOUR HEAD! YOU CAN CUT THE FUN-HOUSE JOKES NOW!

SOME JOKE, EH-- YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE!

PROF

ACE

NOT THAT OLD GAG-- YOU'RE GOING TO KILL US CHALLENGERS! BRU-THER! THE GUYS THAT TRIED TO DO THAT WOULD FILL A TELEPHONE BOOK!

QUITE RIGHT, CHATTERBOX! BUT I AM LIKE NO OTHER...

...I AM NO ORDINARY VILLAIN-- AND NO MERE REMARKABLE VILLAIN! I AM THE LIVING END, FRIEND-- THE ABSOLUTE LIMIT! I AM VILLO-- THE MOST EVIL MAN THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!

AND JUST HOW ARE YOU ANY DIFFERENT, FROM THE OTHERS WHO TRIED TO KNOCK US OFF, BIG MOUTH?

DIFFERENT? LIKE THIS! THE OTHERS TRIED TO KILL ALL OF YOU! BUT I- I CHOOSE ONE CHALLENGER AND DIRECT HIM TO KILL HIS PALS! CLEVER AND TERRIBLE, EH? THINK ABOUT IT WHILE THEY JOIN YOU... ONE BY ONE...

KEEP SLUGGIN' PROF! WE CAN TAKE THESE CREEPS! HEY, WHA' HOPPEN TO RED?



SUDDENLY, HUMPTY-DUMPTY "FALLS" APART...

HUN-H-H!

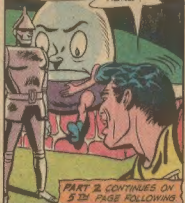


...AND GOES BACK TOGETHER AGAIN... WITH PROF INSIDE!

THIS OUGHTA STIFF YOU OUT-- YOU BIG STIFF! HOW YOU DOIN', PROF?



PROF! PROF! WHERE'N BLAZES ARE YOU? FIRST RED VANISHES-- NOW PROF! WHAT'S GOIN' ON AROUND HERE?



PART 2 CONTINUES ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

SAID A CAT SUFFOCATING
IN SQUARESVILLE:
"I HAVE MOVED TO THE
WIDE-OPEN-AIRSVILLE,
'CAUSE THOSE MAGS FROM
SET ME OFF ON A SPREE,
THEY ARE STRICTLY FROM
NONE-CAN-COMPARESVILLE."



DC

"DIGGER" DUGAN

WHEW! IT'S HOT
IN THIS SUN!

HENRY
BODOFF

I'LL START
DIGGING.

LOOK AT HIM
DIG SO FAST.

"DIGGER," DID YOU FIND
SOMETHING OVER
THERE?

NO! I JUST
WANT TO GET
IN THE **SHADE**
!

KIDS! MAIL IN YOUR HOBBY HINTS

CAP'S, NATIONAL COMICS

575 LEXINGTON AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

IF PUBLISHED, YOU WILL RECEIVE \$5 AND THE ORIGINAL ART.



THANKS TO -
DAN REINIKKA
NEW YORK, N.Y.

MR. CAP, I CAN'T JOIN THE
THREADS TOGETHER ON THIS
MODEL TANK I ASSEMBLED.
I TRIED GLUE, BUT IT
DOESN'T HOLD!

GLUE DOESN'T WORK
WELL ON THIS. YOU
NEED A LITTLE FREEDOM
OF MOTION WHERE
IT JOINS!

WHAT DO YOU
SUGGEST?

THIS!

A
STAPLER?

SURE! IT HOLDS THE ENDS
OF THE THREADS
TOGETHER
BEAUTIFULLY!

SNAP!

APRIL 15 HOBBY MONTH

DIRECT CURRENTS

Hi, DC fans! Here's another preview peek at the Dynamic Concoction of action, thrills and laughs we've whipped up to tickle your adventure taste-buds in the weeks to come. Read 'em and see what we mean!

Egg Fu, the Oriental Mastermind it took WONDER WOMAN TWO issues to flatten, has a robot twin who bakes the unique METAL MEN in a . . . "BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR A CANNIBAL ROBOT!" . . . in the June-July issue, No. 20, on sale April 21.

Holy showdown! If you think SUPERMAN and BATMAN can handle ANY villain, wait'll you catch their clash with the INVULNERABLE SUPER-ENEMY . . . the colossal crook who clobbers 'em BOTH! June WORLD'S FINEST, No. 152, on sale April 26.

The JUSTICE LEAGUERS were warned they could not defeat the monstrous, menacing SHAGGY MAN—but they were game to die trying! "SUPER-STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SHAGGY MAN!" in the June JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, No. 45, on sale April 26.

Four men dared to ride on a wild merry-go-round contraption, in a gamble with death—for only one of them could be the winner . . . the others were doomed by "The Monster-Go-Round!" June STRANGE ADVENTURES, No. 189, on sale April 23.

BATMAN never had it so good—nor criminals so bad—as when the MASKED MANHUNTER sent mysterious impulses to a crime that was under way! It's "BATMAN'S CRIME-HUNT A-GO-GO!" in the June DETECTIVE, No. 352, on sale April 23.

It's wild—it's woolly—it's downright illegal! That's all we can say about the latest team-up in THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD No. 66, featuring META-MORPHO and the METAL MEN! Can you ask for anything more? June-July issue, on sale April 26.

The SUICIDE SQUAD'S "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!" is seen through the eyes of a gibbering madman who returned after being swallowed alive by "THE MONSTER WHO SANK A NAVY!" In the June-July STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES, No. 127, on sale April 21.

ULTRA, THE MULTI-ALIEN, finds his powers practically useless against the invasion of two alien giants, and has to come up with the big pitch to strike out "The Colossal Creatures!" June MYSTERY IN SPACE, No. 108, on sale April 26.

Locked in a planetary prison camp—captives of a three-eyed fanatic with atomic energy in his veins—it looks like the members of the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES have had it! Have they? Catch the June ADVENTURE, No. 345, on sale April 23.

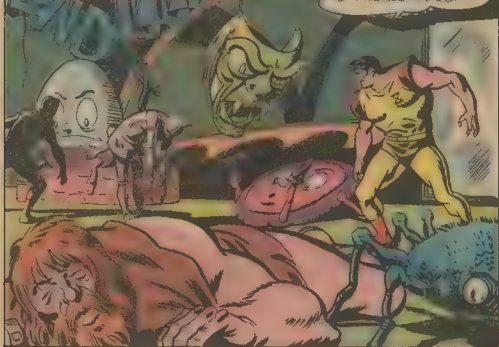
YOUR **FREE** TRIP **AROUND** THE **WORLD!**



PART
2

ONE BY ONE--AS VILLAINOUS
VILLO PREDICTED--THE
CHALLENGERS HEAD
UNERRINGLY TOWARD WHAT
"SINISTER FATE."

WELL--AT LEAST WE'RE
STILL HERE--HUN, ACE? BUT
RED AN' PROF HAVE DONE
THE BIG SPLT SYLLE. THIS
S A WERDO A. RIGHT



WE'RE GONNA TAKE THIS
JOINT APART LIKE IT WAS
HIT BY A BAZOOKA, PAL!

HEY!

THIS CAT
AIN'T ACE



I BETTER NOT KNOCK
YOUR TEETH OUT OR
GIVE YOU A SPLT L.P.
YOU FINK. 'CAUSE I
WANT YOU T TELL ME
WHERE MY PALS ARE.



MY EYES! I DIDN'T DIG
THAT CRAZY KNIFE! GAS
COMIN' OUT OF T
BLINDIN' ME



AS ROCKY COLLAPSES, THE DONEY RACES INTO THE ROOM WITH THE TRICK MIRROR.

QUICKLY RECOVERING, ROCKY MOVES WARILY TOWARDS THE SOUND OF VOICES.

EVERYTHING WENT FINE BOSS!

AND WHY SHOULDN'T IT-- AS I OBSERVED FROM BEHIND THE TWO-WAY GLASS, AND ADDRESS ME AS VILLO-- VILLO THE WORLD'S WORST VILLAIN!

MY CHALLENGER-KILLER PLAN IS SUPER-PERFECT AS USUAL! ONE BY ONE THEY'VE BEEN TAKEN TO DEATH ROW LOCATED DIRECTLY UNDER US!



THE AMUSEMENT PARK WAS BUILT OVER WHAT ONCE WAS A LABORATORY YEARS AGO! A CHEMICAL EXPLOSION OCCURRED BUT THE CHAMBER REMAINED INTACT-- AND IS NOW AN ESCAPE-PROOF CELL BLOCK! THIS KEY I HOLD IS THE ONLY WAY TO FREEDOM!

SO THAT'S THE BIT MAN I'VE HEARD ENOUGH!



YOU DREAM HAPPY CHARACTERG FORGOT ONE THING--THERE'S STILL A CHALL ON THE LOOSE... NAMELY, ME! AND I'M GONNA BEAT NTU YOU SO YOU DONT FORGET IT!

I CAN TAKE THAT KEY EASY, BUT I MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY MYSELF AT THE SAME TIME!



ALL I CAN SAY FOR THESE A-ONE
ROCKS IS THAT THEY NOW JOIN A
"LONG LIST O' WISE GUYS WHO
TRIED 'T TAKE US CHALLS'
HMM-- THAT STAIRWAY MUST LEAD
TO THE JOINT BELOW'



ROCKY!

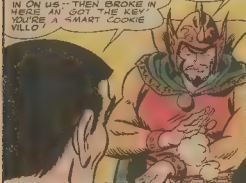
I FIGGERED THEY NABBED
YOU TOO ACE--WHEN I WASN'T
LOOKIN' DOESN'T MATTER
I'LL HAVE YOU GUYS OUT O
THIS CRAZY CLINK IN A
SPLIT SEC



THINK SO ROCK? IF YOU ONLY KNEW WHAT
WAS HAPPENING UPSTAIRS

EVERYTHING WENT JUST
LIKE YOU SAID' ROCKY
SURVIVED THE WEAK GAS--
FOLLOWED ME--LISTENED
IN ON US--THEN BROKE IN
HERE AN' GOT THE KEY--
YOU'RE A SMART COOKIE
VILLO!

DON'T BORE
ME WITH
COMPLIMENTS!



NOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN' WHEN AN
ELECTRIC SWITCH IS TURNED ON IN
A GAS-FILLED ROOM, A SPARK
MAKES A BIG BANG. WELL, WHEN
THAT GROSS, STUPID CHALLENGER
TURNS THE LOCK IN ONE OF THOSE
CELLS, POW' COMES
THE REAL
SURPRISE!

VILLO! YOU JUST
GOTTA GIVE ME
YOUR AUTOGRAPH--
WHEN THIS
CAPER IS
FINISHED,
BUT LEMME
ASK YOU,
SOMETHIN'



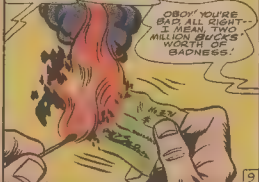
YOUR IDEA OF HAVIN
ONE CHALLENGER
KNOCK OFF HIS PALS
SHOWS YOU'RE REAL
CLEVER' BUT HOW
DOES IT MAKE YOU
THE WORST
VILLAIN?

AH! THAT'S
THE JUICY
PART OF IT--
SEE THIS
BLANK CHECK
MY EMPLOYERS
GAVE ME?



I CAN WRITE IN THE AMOUNT FOR ANY
SUM-- A MILLION-- TWO MILLION' BUT I'M
DOING THIS JOB FOR NOTHING' IN
SHORT-- OUT OF SHEER MEANNESS,
I'LL HAVE THE CHALLENGERS
DESTROYED' THAT'S WHAT MAKES
ME THE WORLD'S WORST VILLAIN!

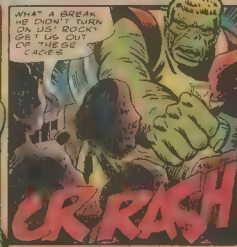
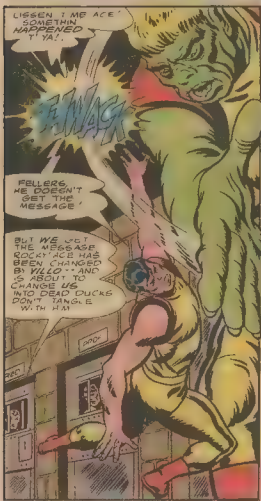
OBOY! YOU'RE
BAD, ALL RIGHT--
I MEAN, TWO
MILLION BUCKS'
WORTH OF
BADNESS!



UNWITTINGLY ROCKY INSERTS THE FATAL KEY



"HEY ACE! WHAT'RE YOU PULLIN' A QUICK CHANGE FOR?... ACE! WHAT'S WRONG?"



AFTER ROCKY FINISHES

EITHER SOMETHING WENT WRONG WITH VILLO'S PLAN - SINCE ACE DIDN'T STAY HERE TO KILL US-- OR THERE'S SOMETHING REAL SCREWY ABOUT THIS WHOLE MESS. THIS KEY, FOR EXAMPLE.



...IT'S NO ORDINARY KEY! IT'S ACTUALLY AN ELECTRICAL DEVICE! BUT--WHAT WAS ITS REAL PURPOSE?

WHO CARES NOW? WE'VE GOTTA CATCH UP WITH ACE AND TRY TO GET HIM BACK TO NORMAL! LET'S GO, CATS!



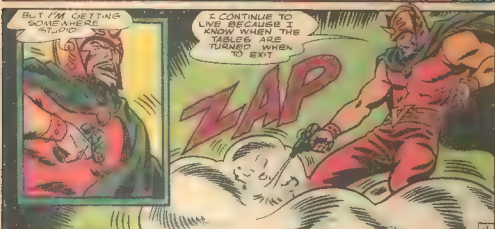
DIDN'T HEAR AN EXPLOSION FROM BELOW. SOMETHING WENT HAYWIRE WITH MY PLANS WHO'S THAT NTERLOPER IN THEIR UNIFORM?

I DUNNO. BUT I'M NOT GETTIN' ANYWHERE SHOOTIN' AT IT VILLO!



BUT I'M GETTING SOMEWHERE STUPID

I CONTINUE TO LIVE BECAUSE I KNOW WHEN THE TABLES ARE TURNED WHEN TO EXIT



A LITTLE THING I LEARNED
IN THE ORIENT! UNFORTUNATELY,
I CAN TAKE NO PASSENGERS
WITH ME! GOODBYE
FOREVER!

NO, VILLO!
DON'T LEAVE ME
ALONE WITH THIS
NIGHTMARE!



VILLO--
PLEASE!
TAKE ME
ALONG!

DON'T BE
RIDICULOUS!
IF I HELPED
YOU, I THINK
WHAT IT
WOULD DO
TO MY
REPUTATION



WOW! WHAT
A FADEOUT!
HOWD THAT
YO-YO
JUST LIP AN
VANISH?

FILE THAT
UNDER 'THINGS
TO BE WORRIED
ABOUT--LATER.'
THUM RIGHT
NOW WE'VE
GOT ANOTHER
PROBLEM TO
WORRY ABOUT--
AND HERE
HE COMES!



SAVE ME,
CHALLENGERS!
SAVE ME!

GROWRRP

KABAM

SOME JOKE!
THIS IS
STRICTLY
EVERYBODY
FOR HIMSELF,
BUSTER



SUDDENLY THE MONSTER CHALLENGER
TURNS--CHARGES HEADLONG INTO THE NIGHT...

ON YOUR FEET!
HE'S GETTIN'
AWAY!



NO SIGN
OF HIM,
ANYWHERE

FINDING ACE IS ONLY
PART OF OUR PROBLEM!
WE'VE ALSO GOT TO
GET VILLO! BUT
WHERE'D HE
VANISH TO?



AT THIS VERY MOMENT, THE
WORLD'S MOST WICKED
VILLAIN IS A DEJECTED
FIGURE AS HE MAKES AN
UNUSUAL HIDEOUT
VILLO'S VILLA

click click click

"APPARENT FAILURE? AS
I COMPUTE IT, VILLO, YOUR
PLAN LAD A KING-SIZE
EGG!"

I KNOW YOU MUST BE
SMILING AT MY APPARENT
FAILURE, BRAINEX! I
HAD TO MAKE A FAST
ZAP-GUN EXIT, AND COME
IN ON THE VANISHING
BEAM! SO DON'T GIVE
ME THAT "I-TOLD-YOU-SO"
LOOK

WIPE THAT SILLY GRIN OFF YOUR
FACE! GET YOUR TRANSISTORS
ON THE BALL, AND TELL ME
WHAT CHANGED ACE INTO A
MONSTER. THAT WASN'T ANY OF
MY DOING!

THAT WAS A
SURPRISE
WASN'T IT?

YOU'RE ALWAYS HOGGING
THE GLORY - ALWAYS
CALLING ME JUST A
MACHINE, VILLO!
BUT TRUE NOW
YOU NEED ME

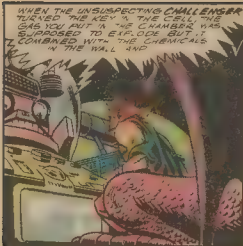
KNOCK IT OFF WILL
YOU! AFTER ALL I
MADE YOU WHAT
-O- ARE TODAY

CORRECTION! THAT DOES NOT COMPUTE
OLD BOY! I MADE YOU WHAT YOU ARE!
TRUE, YOU'RE THE WORLD'S WORST
VILLAIN - BUT REMEMBER - I'M
THE WORLD'S MOST
DABOLICAL MACHINE!

HO-HUM!
GET ON WITH
EXPLANATION
OF THE
CHALLENGER
MONSTER!

VERY WELL! YOU'LL RECALL THE
ORIGINAL BLAST IN THE LAB
WELL, THIS IMBEDDED CERTAIN
CHEMICALS IN THE CHAMBER
WALLS!

HMMM,
CARRY
ON.



WHEN THE UNSUSPECTING CHALLENGER TURNED THE KEY IN THE CELL, THE GAS YOU PUT IN THE CHAMBER WAS SUPPOSED TO EXPLODE BUT IT COMBINED WITH THE CHEMICALS IN THE WALL AND



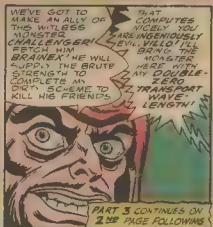
AND BY A BREAKISH FORMULA, I WON'T BOTHER COMPUTING NOW THE CHALLENGER LEADER WAS TRANSFORMED

SO THAT'S IT! WELL, MY PLAN TO USE A CHALLENGER TO KILL THE OTHER CHALLENGERS CAN STILL WORK!



THE MONSTER CHALLENGER IS A THINKING-LESS, MOTIVE-LESS CREATURE-RIGHT, BRAINEX?

THAT COMPUTES NICELY! YOU'RE COOKING ON THE FRONT BURNER, WILLO!

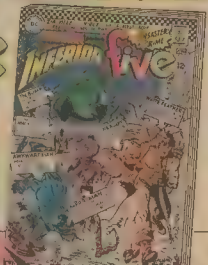
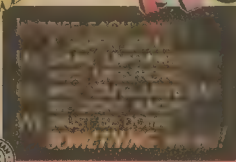


WE'VE GOT TO MAKE AN ALLY OF THIS WITLESS MONSTER CHALLENGER! I'LL FETCH HIM BRAINEX! HE WILL SUPPLY THE BRUTE STRENGTH TO COMPLETE MY DIRTY SCHEME TO KILL HIS FRIENDS

THAT COMPUTES NICELY! YOU ARE INGENUOUSLY EVIL, WILLO! I'LL BRING THE MONSTER HERE WITH MY DOUBLE-ZERO TRANSPORT WAVE-LENGTH!

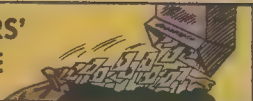
PART 3 CONTINUES ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

A Showcase Disgrace- The INFERIOR five



NOW ON SALE!

CHALLENGERS' MAIL CHUTE



Dear Editor: Why do you do it? Why do you publish classics, which practically force me to write and tell you how wonderful they are? I'm referring, of course, to No. 48's "Twilight of the Challengers." Teaming up our CHALLS and the DOOM PATROL was a stroke of sheer genius, and the plot was a masterpiece of mayhem and mirth. I wish there was a prize for this two-part package. You'd win it, hands down!—Alan Frugis, Jersey City, N.J.

And we'd grab it with our grubby, greedy fingers in acknowledgement of the wonderful work of amiable Arnold Drake and blushing Bob Brown. We don't think you're putting us on, Alan of boy, because we've been deluged with flattering letters about our literary coup.

Dear Editor: That Sponge-Man of No. 47 was one of the most original characters ever offered in a comic. Miklos was so human in that he was gentle and kind, I actually felt bad when he was transformed into the sinister Sponge. Will he ever come back? Will he ever be cured of his strange melody?—Rose Templeman, Genoa City, Wis.

Hoo-boy! Will he? We've got him all set for the issue coming up, No. 51, in a socko story called "Stop the Sponge-Man—or Die!" And what makes this front-page news is that we'll offer another all-star combo when the renowned SEA DEVILS, who appear in their own tome, will appear with our CHALLS! Take it from us, it's a real chiller-thriller, and next time you take a bath, you'll think twice before using that sponge, then throw it away!

MAIL CHUTE CHIT-CHAT: "The CHALLENGERS are so good," pens Able Seaman David Edwards, hoisting anchor with our Navy in Italy. "I think you should have a better name for them." Are you putting us on, skipper? Our champs have been doing okay with that title for almost 10 years, and that ain't hay in any man's comics league. . . . Coincidentally, Tom Elkins of Pontica, Mich., and James Maupin from Henry, Ill., ask about the possibility of printing a pin-up picture of our famous four-some. Funny you should ask, fellers—because we happen to be making plans for a king-size pic in a future issue.

Three more fanzines asking to be mentioned.

Further info available by writing the editors: Tony Rutherford, of "Bombshell," 1046 Jackson Ave., Huntington, W. Va. 25704; Bob Mueller, "The Meteor," 1108 Western Ave., Belleville, Ill. 62221; William James, "Comic Maria," 732 Randolph St., Charleston, W. Va. . . . From Clarksburg, Ind. comes a chorus chanting for a CHALLS Annual Duffy Vohlund, Larry Wolfe, Duane Noah, Tommy Dale, Mark Wenning, Jed Barnett, Clair Verway, Bill Crane, and Gary Marlow. To which we reply, we can't do a thing, loyal supporters of The Order of CHALLS Fans, until we get the nod from the Front Office.

David Wilson from Rochester, N.Y. and Glenn Everett, Lakeland, Fla., are miffed because their robust hero Rocky ducked a fight with Robotman in No. 48's epic yarn, What? You want him to bruise those beautiful knuckles on ol' Tin-Head? Anyway, he wasn't scared. He just wanted to run away so he could fight again another day! . . . Terry Hanks of Houston, Tex, asks when are we going to resurrect Cosmo, the CHALLS' pet? Dunno, Terry, unless he can figure how to get into one of their adventures. But why bother with that if I'm casual? Haven't they troubles enough? . . . No column would be complete without mentioning the cheering correspondence from Howard Nielsen, Silverton, Ore., Ted Rypel, Cleveland, Ohio, and Kenney Bornstein, Yonkers, N.Y.

THE SWAP SHOP. Scribble Jim Speicher, 5609 64th Ave., Riverdale, Md., a note telling him which back issues you have available. . . . Anybody want to trade with Cliff Mason, 422 Coolidge Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.? . . . Back numbers, plus the CHALLS' "Showcase" debut being sought by Patrick Stout, 514 15th Ave., East Moline, Ill. . . . Jeffrey Lowndes, 809 Sunset St., Scranton, Pa., and Gary Skinner, 2991 Court-right Rd., Columbus, O., 43227, desperate for Nos. 1-46! That's like asking for a miracle, fellers, going that far back. . . . Tom Elkins, 3265 Coolidge, Pontica, Mich., also wants early books. Ditto Duane Gaddard, Washington St., Fair Haven, Vt. 05743, and Dick Swan, 1680 Faraday Ct., San Jose, Calif.

Let's hear what you have to say, but if you want a personal reply, make sure to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

WE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING — WRITE!

PART
3

WITH EYE-POPPING SWIFTNESSTHE ELECTRONIC WIZARDRY OF THE
DIABOLICAL MACHINE WHIRLS THE HELPLESS AND TRANSFORMED AGE TO

VILLO'S VILLA OF EVIL

KILL THE CHALLENGERS!

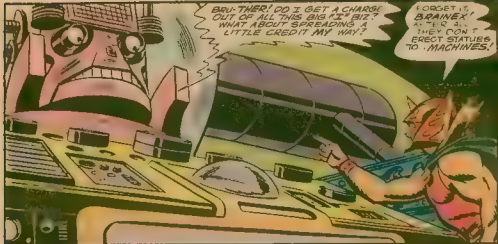
WRRRRR
ZZZZT

GIVE HIM THE FULL
TREATMENT, BRAINEX!
THE SUPER FORCE
OF IMPACT BW 32!
THIS LL BE THE
BRAN WASHING
BT OF THE YEAR

KILL THE
CHALLENGERS!

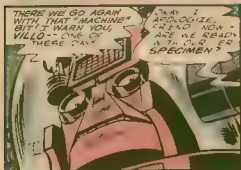
GET THE MESSAGE,
FRIEND? I WANT YOU
TO KNOW THAT
YOU'RE A SPECIAL
STUDENT- YOU'LL
"GRADUATE" WITH
TOP HONORS!

THIS IS MY DAY,
BRAINEX! I'LL LIVE
FOREVER IN INFAMY!
FROM HIGH ROOFTOP
TO GANGLAND GUTTER
THEY'LL SHOUT MY
NAME OVER AND
OVER AGAIN...
VILLO--LONG
LIVE VILLO...
VIVA VILLO!



BRU-THER! DO I GET A CHARGE
OUT OF ALL THIS BIG IT'S BIZ?
WHAT ABOUT SPREADING
LITTLE CREDIT MY WAY?

FORGET IT,
BRAINEX!
AFTER ALL
THEY DON'T
ERECT STATUES
TO 'MACHINES'!



THERE WE GO AGAIN
WITH THAT "MACHINE"
BIT! I WARN YOU,
VILLO-- ONE OF
THESE DAYS

SAY I
APOLOGIZE,
FRIEND NOW -
ARE WE READY
IN YOUR ER
SPECIMEN?



KILL THE CHALLENGERS!

READY, WILLING
AND ABLE
EAGER TO OBEY
YOUR EVERY
COMMAND

'TERRER'
GET UP,
STUPID!



THE BRIGHT
EYED NO
WITH THE
KILLER
INSTINCT
EN? OKAY -
FAC THE
CHALLENGERS
AND DO
YOU KNOW
WHAT

KILL KILL THE CHALLENGERS!



UNLEASHED, THE ANGRY SOCIETY STALKS
THROUGH A TERRIBLE CITY

WH-
WHAT
IS IT?

SOME KIND OF
A MONSTER -
A
CHALLENGER
UNIFORM



LOOK AT THAT!
HE'S NOT
HURTIN'
ANYBODY.

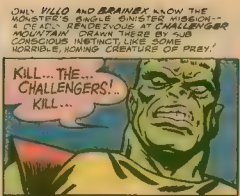
YEAH REAL
WEIRD.

YEAH HE
SCARED
THING I
EVER SAW!

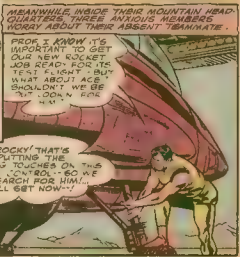
**TROMP
TROMP**

WONDER
WHAT HE
IS - WHAT
HE'S UP
TO

BUT HE'S
WON IN HIS
OWN BUSINESS
LIKE HE'S
JUST DRAGIN'
THROUGH
TOWN!
OBOY!

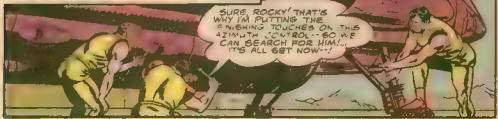


KILL... THE...
CHALLENGERS!..
KILL...

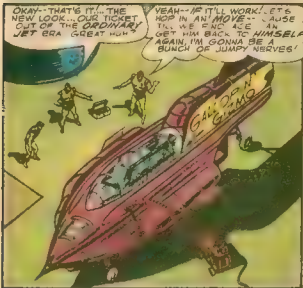


MEANWHILE, INSIDE THEIR MOUNTAIN HEAD-
QUARTERS, THREE ANXIOUS MEMBERS
WORRY ABOUT THEIR ABSENT TEAMMATE.

PROF I KNOW IT'S
IMPORTANT TO GET
OUR NEW ROCKET
JOB READY FOR ITS
TEST FLIGHT - BUT
WHAT ABOUT ACE?
SHOULDN'T WE BE
OUT LOOKIN' FOR
HIM?

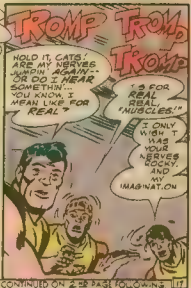


SURE, ROCKY! THAT'S
WHY I'M PUTTING THE
FINISHING TOUCHES ON THIS
AZIMUTH CONTROL-- SO WE
CAN SEARCH FOR HIM!..
IT'S ALL SET NOW--!



OKAY-- THAT'S IT!... THE
NEW LOOK... OUR TICKET
OUT OF THE ORDINARY
JET ERA GREAT HUH?

YEAH-- IF IT'LL WORK! LET'S
HOP IN AN' MOVE-- 'CAUSE
THAT WE FIND ACE - AN
GET HIM BACK TO HIMSELF
AGAIN, I'M GONNA BE A
BUNCH OF JUMPY NERVES!



**TROMP TROMP
TROMP**

HOLD IT, CATS!
ARE MY NERVES
JUMPIN' AGAIN--
OR DO I HEAR
SOMETHIN'...
YOU KNOW, I
MEAN LIKE FOR
REAL?

IT'S FOR
REAL,
REAL,
"MUSCLES!"

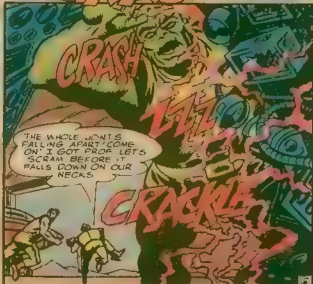
I ONLY
WISH I
WAS
YOUR
NERVES
ROCKY,
AND
MY
IMAGINATION

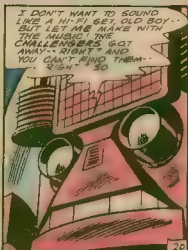
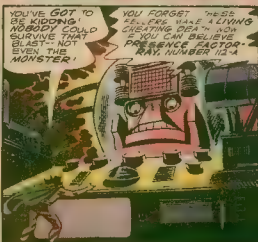
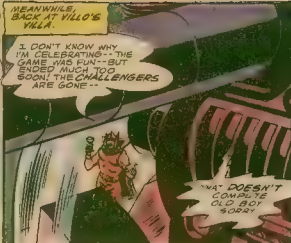
SCOOTER? Who HE?

FORSOOTH, FROM WILL THE SHAKESPEARE'S PAD
ALACK, THERE CAME THIS SWINGIN' CAT
EGAD, HE DIGGED US SO, THIS LAD
'S' BLOOD, WE'RE NOW HIS HABITAT!
GADZOOKS, THOSE KOOKS AT DC BOAST
ODDS BODKINS, **SCOOTER'S** STRICTLY BOSS
I' FAITH, HIS NEW MAG IS THE MOST
HOW NOW, OUR **GAIN** IS ENGLAND'S **LOSS!**



ON SALE
APR. 7th





I GET T SAY NO
MORE! SINCE I
CAN'T FIND THE
CHALLENGERS--
I'LL LET THEM
FIND ME! THAT'S
REAL CAMP!

YEAH LIKE ALL
THINGS
IT'S SO OLD
THAT IT HAPPENS
TO BE AN
CLASSIC! I'LL
SUMMON THE
MONSTER-- AND
HAVE THE
CHALLENGERS
FOLLOW!

SOON, THE MONSTER CHALLENGER ABSORBS
BRAINEX'S DIRECTIONAL RAYS, AND AS IF
HYPNOTIZED HEADS FOR VILLO'S VILLA ..



AND HIGH ABOVE

THERE'S ACE
ALIVE! I CAN
HARDLY BELIEVE
IT! BOY WHAT
LUCK! NOW--IF
ONLY PROF
CAME TO!

ACE IS ALIVE YEAH
BUT I THINK HE'S
UNDER VILLO'S
INFLUENCE AND
THAT'S WORSE THAN
BEING DEAD LET'S
TAG ALONG HE
MIGHT LEAD US
TO THAT KOOK.

AT AN ABANDONED GAS STATION

HE' RED
LOOK AT THAT
WHY'S HE
GOING IN
THERE?

LET'S FIND OUT!
--LET 'ER DOWN WE'LL
LEAVE PROF IN THIS
GIZMO-- AND
FOLLOW.

VILLO! HE
CHALLENGERS
APPROACH!

THAT DOESN'T
SURPRISE ME I
PLANNED IT
THAT WAY

A MINUTE LATER...

THE LIGHTS
WENT OUT--

ROCKY--PSBT!
THIS WAY...
HEY! WHAT'S
THAT?

CLICK
CLICK

I CAN'T MOVE,
"CARROT-TOPI!"
I THINK WE
WALKED INTO
A TRAP!

WE'VE GOT
'EM,
BRAINEX!
LIGHTS ON!

WHAT'S THAT? YOU-- THE
GREAT BRAINEX-- THE
WORLD'S MOST DIABOLICAL
MACHINE-- YOU HAVE TO
TAKE TIME TO THINK?

TWO OF
THEM
BRAINEX--
BUT
WHERE'S
THE
OTHER
ONE?

UH... LET ME--UH--
THINK FOR A
MOMENT...

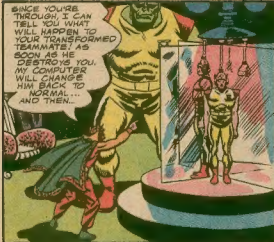
YOUR CLEVER VILLAINY WOULD
STARTLE ANYBODY, HOWEVER,
GET ON WITH YOUR SHOW!
THE OTHER CHALLENGER
WILL JOIN US
"SHORTLY..."

WELL--
WELL!
THANKS
FOR THE
COMPLIMENT!
IT'S SO
UNLIKE
YOU!

GRROWRR!
KILL--KILL THE
CHALLENGERS!

YOU CHALLENGERS UNDERSTAND,
I'M SURE, THAT I COULD'VE KILLED YOU
IN A HUNDRED WAYS SINCE YOU WALKED
IN HERE-- BUT THAT WOULD BE AGAINST
MY CODE! I WANT YOUR ERSTWHILE
FRIEND, HERE, TO DO THE JOB...

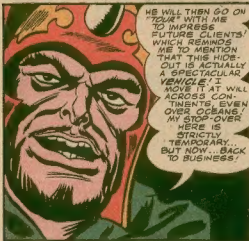
DOWN, BOY--
IT'S NOT
QUITE TIME
YET...



SINCE YOU'RE THROUGH, I CAN TELL YOU WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR TRANSFORMED TEAMMATE! AS SOON AS HE DESTROYS YOU, MY COMPUTER WILL CHANGE HIM BACK TO NORMAL... AND THEN...



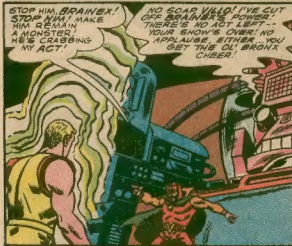
... AND THEN I WILL PUT HIM IN A STATE OF PERPETUAL SUSPENDED ANIMATION-- PLACE HIM IN THIS GLASS CASE-- AND DISPLAY HIM AS A PRIZE IN MY TROPHY ROOM!



HE WILL THEN GO ON "TOUR" WITH ME TO IMPRESS FUTURE CLIENTS! WHICH REMINDS ME TO MENTION THAT THIS HIDE-OUT IS ACTUALLY A SPECTACULAR VEHICLE! I MOVE IT AT WILL ACROSS CONTINENTS, EVEN OVER OCEANS! MY STOP-OVER HERE IS STRICTLY TEMPORARY... BUT NOW... BACK TO BUSINESS!



HUN? WHAT'S THIS? YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE CHANGED YET!



STOP HIM, BRAINEX! STOP HIM! MAKE HIM REMAIN A MONSTER! HE'S CRABBING MY ACT!

NO SOAP VILLO! I'VE CUT OFF BRAINEX'S POWER! THERE'S NO ACT LEFT-- YOUR SHOW'S OVER! NO APPLAUSE, EITHER... YOU GET THE OL' BRONX CHEER!



YOU! YOU WERE INSIDE THE COMPUTER-- AT ITS BRAIN! YOU CHANGED THAT CHALLENGER BACK!

RIGHT! I PULLED A REAL SNEAKY, VILLO! WHEN I CAME TO, AND SAW RED AND ROCKY COMING IN HERE-- I TAGGED ALONG! WHILE THE LIGHTS WERE OUT-- I SLIPPED INTO THE COMPUTER!

SUDDENLY, VILLO WHIPS OUT HIS AMAZING ZAP GUN...



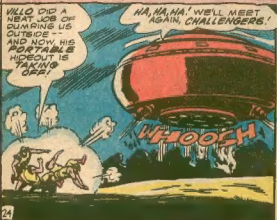
-- BUT DON'T TRY PLAYING WITH THE REAL BIG BOYS! HA, HA!



THANKS, OLD BOY FOR BRINGING ME BACK OUT OF LIMBO!



THEN, AS THE STAGGERED CHALLENGERS REAPPEAR OUTSIDE, AND STARE INCREDULOUSLY...



THERE HE GOES -- FLYING THE COOP! AND SPEAKING OF "HIDEOUTS," WE'RE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD... WITH CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN GONE! WE NEED A NEW HEADQUARTERS!

SO JUST WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE, CHUMS?



WHEREVER VILLO AND BRAINEX TAKE YOU, ROCKY -- BECAUSE THEY'RE COMING BACK... BACK FOR REVENGE SOONER THAN YOU THINK!

THE END

AMERICA'S MOST DELICIOUS SUPERHERO OF THE 1940s

BOB HOPE

THE HOPE MEETS THE MOUTH WHEN I MAKE YOU SUPERHERO!

HOPE AND SPIKE ARE A PART OF BOB HOPE'S FUNNY MOVIES... THE FUNNIEST MOVIES YOU'VE EVER SEEN!

NOW ON SALE

For A MILLION LAUGHS

Go Go Go

DC NATIONAL COMICS

THE SUGAR AND SPIKE

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE GOING TO FIND OUT... OWN YOUR OWN SUGAR AND SPIKE!

ON SALE APR. 21st

SPIRITUAL DOUBLES

ONE OF THE FAVORITE BELIEFS OF DEVOTEES OF THE OCCULT IS THE SO-CALLED **SPIRITUAL DOUBLE** -- AN ELUSIVE BEING THAT EXISTS OUTSIDE MAN'S PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT AND YET IS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH HIM...

THE **SPIRITUAL DOUBLE** IS OFTEN SEEN IN DREAMS...



A PERSON'S **SHADOW** -- ALWAYS WITH HIM, YET INDICATING ITS OWN MODE OF BEHAVIOR -- IS ALSO CITED AS EVIDENCE OF THE **SPIRITUAL DOUBLE**.



PRESENT -- EVEN IF NOT SEEN -- IS THE **SPIRITUAL DOUBLE** INDICATED BY AN **ECHO**...



MIRRORS AND WATER REVEAL THE PRESENCE OF A **DOUBLE**...



Everyone
swore it
COULDN'T
happen--
but it
DOES!

AND IT'S **NOT** AN
IMAGINARY TALE--
NOT A HOAX OR A JOKE--
OR A DREAM--BUT A **REAL**
SUPER-SUSPENSEFUL
CEREMONY IN...
**'THE BRIDE
OF THE
DOOM PATROL!'**

Yes, ELASTI-GIRL MARRIES MENTO IN THE
WORLD'S WILDEST WEDDING--BECAUSE OF THE UNINVITED
GUESTS ARE **"THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL!"** THE
CRIMINAL QUARTET THAT VOWED TO SMASH OUR **DP!**

RSVP AT YOUR NEWSSTAND APRIL 19th

